

Acts 15: Debate for the Faith Entrusted to the Saints**I. The Teaching of Legalism**

- A. Man's work is required in addition to the Lord's salvation — one cannot be saved without circumcision
- B. The enemy intended to destroy the work of the Lord's salvation

II. The Council at Jerusalem — a Great Crisis for the Pure Faith (vv. 2–21)

- A. A sharp dispute — the conflict between the spirit and flesh — Paul and Barnabas debated for the faith
- B. Peter's testimony — broke the heavy yoke (vv. 7–11)
 - 1. Passed out God's commission
 - 2. God showed that He accepted the Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them
 - 3. One faith — no distinction between Jews and Gentiles
 - 4. Do not test God by keeping the letter of the law
 - 5. The law is a heavy yoke that no one can bear
 - 6. We are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus — the same way for all
- C. The testimony of Barnabas and Paul
- D. The word of the Lord triumphed — the legalistic kept silent
- E. The compromise by James (vv. 13–21)
 - 1. He understood the Lord's work — quoted from the Scriptures about the salvation of the Gentiles
 - 2. He added additional regulations — in the New Testament, the law is spiritual and should be kept in the heart ([Hebrews 8:10-12](#); [1 John 2:27](#))

III. Delivering the Council's Decision (vv. 22–25)

- A. Choosing the faithful
 - 1. Judas and Silas — leading men among the brethren
 - 2. Barnabas and Paul — risked their lives for the name of the Lord
- B. Non-essential commands

IV. Barnabas and Paul Parted Company for Ministry (vv. 36–41)

- A. Prepared for the second missionary journey
- B. Sharp disagreement over Mark
- C. Barnabas hid himself — a turning point for Mark
- D. Paul's ministry was growing more evident